



Thank you Rep. Jutila and Senator Musto, members of the Government, Administration, and Elections Committee. It is an honor to represent Connecticut Citizen Action Group on behalf of our over 20,000 members in the state with regards to our Constitutional Amendment that would grant increased authority to the General Assembly regarding election administration.

Currently, our constitution is written in such a stringent manner that our General Assembly doesn't even have the authority to update our laws. With regard to the changes in this amendment, form should mimic content in this process. The changes to the Connecticut Constitution should be subject to the greater democratic mechanisms of our General Assembly in order to elevate the discourse of democracy in our state. Voters deserve the process of having public hearings, giving public testimony, and speaking with their local legislators on issues that impact their voting rights. Discussion with such large implications to the democratic process should be subject to that same process.

I echo Secretary of the State Denise Merrill in calling for updating our archaic voting laws. Long lines in voting places like Bridgeport where voters faced massive power outages made voting very difficult; some residents faced wait times of up to 90 minutes in some locations.<sup>1</sup> Clearly reforms are needed and deserve the input of the public on their specific experiences and challenges to increasing public participation in our democracy.

I urge you and the rest of the committee to pass this amendment and bring about much needed changes to our voting system.

Thank you for your time.

Submitted by Daniel Ravizza, Organizer, CT Citizen Action Group  
January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2013

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<sup>1</sup> Merrill, Denise. Hartford Courant 1/18/13. <http://www.courant.com/news/opinion/hc-op-merrill-connecticut-needs-early-voting-laws--20130118,0,4183471.story>